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**Greek fun for
everyone in I.P.**

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**Legislator lends
a helping hand**

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\$1.00



The Abraham Combs house, in Oceanside, has been expertly preserved over the years.

Ryan Demino/Herald

Preserving the Abraham Combs house

By RYAN DEMINO

Intern

All but unnoticed amid the suburban sprawl of Oceanside is a piece of American history few might expect to find: a 19th-century home steeped in stories from the Civil War era, early American life, and even a brush with President Theodore Roosevelt.

Steven and Kathy Buckley, who now own the home, have made it their mission to be the caretakers of this rich heritage, meticulously preserving its legacy.

The Buckleys, who have lived in the house, at 481 Silver Lane, for 37 years, are avid antique collectors who first learned of the its history after Steven visited the Hofstra University library in 1991 and discovered images on microfilm of many of the homes in his neighborhood. He and Kathy discov-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Oceanside pickleball facility set to open Sept. 8

By KEPHERD DANIEL

kdaniel@liherald.com

A new hub for pickleball enthusiasts is set to open soon in Oceanside, promising to bring the community together with the fun, fast-growing sport.

Pickleball XPO, spearheaded by resident David Ring and his family, is gearing up for a Sept. 8 grand opening, at 3573 Maple Court, featuring a fully catered event and a ribbon-cutting ceremony with members of the Oceanside community. The location previously was home to the Turf Island Indoor Sports Facility and will now be

home to the racket sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton, and table tennis, and whose popularity is exploding.

The new facility, which has been under construction for five months, boasts multiple indoor pickleball courts with premium surfaces, providing players with optimal conditions for both casual games and competitive play. The courts are designed to accommodate players of all skill levels, from beginners to advanced athletes. It will also include a smoothie and iced coffee bar providing a convenient spot for players and visitors to refresh and social-

ize.

Ring, the owner and driving force behind the center, has made it a priority to support local businesses throughout the development process.

"Everything we're doing is local," he said. "The sign company, the catering for the grand opening, even the support from the Oceanside Chamber of Commerce — it's all from within the community. I had opportunities to go outside for a few bucks more, but I felt it was best to stay local."

Ring is a retired executive with extensive experience in consumer electronics, including senior roles at retail stores,

such as the now-defunct Nobody Beats the Wiz for 20 years, until 1998. He then moved on to Best Buy for 18 years, holding multiple senior roles and founding Best Buy Mobile. In 2018, he joined Samsung, and was responsible for all of mobile sales in the tristate area, serving as senior market development manager.

After retiring, Ring, a 25-year Oceanside resident who now lives in Island Park, said he decided to open the pickleball facility after identifying a growing demand for the sport, particularly on Long Island's South Shore. He added that he was inspired by his and his family's love for pickleball and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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Daniel Tommasino/Herald

Father George Kazoulis of the Panaghia with his wife Dimitra Vasilopoulos Kazoulis and his daughter six-year-old Annamaria Kazoulis.

Opa! Island Park's Greek Festival draws a crowd

The annual Greek Festival at Panaghia of Island Park successfully wrapped up after four days of vibrant cultural celebrations from Aug. 22 to Aug. 25. The festival in Island Park, drew large crowds eager to experience the rich traditions of Greek culture. The event featured live Greek music on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, which set the tone for festive dancing and merrymaking.

Attendees enjoyed a variety of authentic Greek dishes, including the crowd-favorite loukoumades, along with a selection of Greek beer and

wine. The festival also offered rides and games, making it a family-friendly event that catered to all ages.

The festival was not only a celebration of Greek culture but also a vital fundraiser for the church, with many attendees supporting by purchasing raffle tickets. The success of this year's festival highlighted the community's strong ties to their cultural roots and the ongoing support for Panaghia of Island Park.

— *Kepherd Daniel*



Daniel Tommasino, enjoyed the festival with George Kazoulis and Nickolle Guevara.



Lisa Volts watches as Mike and Joe Ponte enjoy a game of ring toss.



The Nassau County Fourth Precinct came by for the fun with Father George Kazoulis.



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Taking Back Control with a Living Trust

In the fall of 1990, some thirty-four years ago, your writer first heard of the proposition that if you set up a living trust your estate doesn't have to go to court to settle – the so-called probate court proceeding for wills. Having spent the previous eleven years as a litigation attorney, and having faced numerous problems probating wills, this sounded too good to be true.

At the time, some of the best estate planning lawyers were in Florida. Perhaps you can guess why. In any event, off I went to Florida to train as an estate planning lawyer and, upon returning, closed the litigation practice and founded Ettinger Law Firm in April 1991, to keep people just like you, dear reader, out of probate court.

The reason I was so excited about the living trust, and continue to be so to this day, is the concept of taking back control from the courts and government and giving it back to you and your family. After all, who doesn't want control over their affairs?

When you go to court, who's in charge? The judge, right? Now tell me, does the

judge always act in your best interest? Does the judge ever make a mistake? And when the judge says jump, you know what the answer is!

Not only do you pay considerably for this privilege, but it can take many months and often years to complete the probate court proceeding. Meantime, houses cannot be sold, bank accounts accessed, or investment portfolios managed – at least without the judge's permission which involves additional time and resources to request. Of course, that permission may be denied as well.

With a living trust, your trustee (formerly your "executor" under the will) may act immediately upon death to sell the house, pay the bills and handle the investments – no permission required! An additional benefit is, in the event you become unable to handle your affairs later in life, your trustee may take over by simply getting a letter from your doctor showing you are unable to handle your legal and financial affairs. Essentially then, a living trust gives you back the control you may have thought you had.

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Courtesy Island Park Library

It was great night for a summer concert in Island Park.

Drive: The Cars tribute band rocks Island Park Library

Island Park Library was the place to be on TAUG. 20, as a crowd of over 100 people gathered to enjoy a stellar performance by Drive: The Cars Tribute Band. The band impressed the audience by flawlessly capturing the distinctive sound of The Cars.

The band members are Mary Beth Cronin, Lou Auricchio, Bob Gallo, Steve Fer-

raro, and Frank Cee.

Fans sang along to every word, and the band encouraged audience participation, making the night truly memorable. Drive performed all the iconic hits, including "My Best Friend's Girl," "Drive," "Since You're Gone," "Good Times Roll," and many more.

— Kephherd Daniel



Library patrons had a blast in Island Park. In attendance was also assistant Director of Island Park Library Ian Smith, Town Councilwoman Laura Ryder, Island Park Library Director Jessica Koenig, Island Park Library trustee John J. Byrne and Vice President of the Island Park Library Joseph Pontecorvo.

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Alice Moreno/Herald photos

Valley Stream Fire Department Ex-Chief Richard Sullivan, center, was all smiles as he was recognized for his dedication to the community.

First responders celebrated for heroism

By **ROKSANA AMID**
ramid@liherald.com

First responders are the backbone of public safety across Nassau County, the first line of defense in emergencies. Whether it's battling fires, responding to medical crises or managing disasters, these dedicated professionals — firefighters, police officers, paramedics and EMTs — rush into danger to protect and save lives.

In a heartfelt ceremony at the Nassau County Police Department's David S. Mack Center for Intelligence on Aug. 22, U.S. Rep. Anthony D'Esposito recognized the courage and dedication of more than 40 first responders from around the county. They were nominated by their municipalities in the 4th Congressional District for acts of heroism and exemplary service.

D'Esposito, who served as a detective in the New York City Police Department for over a decade and as chief of the Island Park Fire Department, emphasized the critical role first responders play, not just in times of crisis, but in the daily safety and security of county residents.

"We are gathered here this evening really for something that we should be doing every single day," he said. "It's unfortunate in the world that we live in that all too often, it seems that war is being waged on first responders. Those of us in law enforcement have seen that the handcuffs that we're supposed to use on others have suddenly been used on us, hindering us from doing the great work and conducting the great investigations that we do."

During the ceremony, D'Esposito also announced a major achievement for the Nassau County Police Department: a \$3 million federal grant that he secured to build a state-of-the-art

training center. This new facility, set to be constructed behind the existing Center for Intelligence, will feature simulated environments such as a bank, a restaurant, a school, a store, and houses of worship. These realistic settings will provide invaluable training opportunities for police officers as well as federal agents and other law enforcement partners.

Among the honorees was Lt. Petros Mesthenas, a 36-year veteran of the Freeport Fire Department. Mesthenas was recognized for his heroic actions during a devastating five-alarm fire on April 1, 2023, when he navigated a smoke-filled, explosion-damaged garage to rescue two trapped firefighters. His bravery also earned him the prestigious title of New York state's Firefighter of the Year earlier this month.

"I'm a product of the tradition and the experience that has been passed down to me by the senior men of Church Street," Mesthenas said. "It was very nice to receive the recognition, but there's tons of other people out there that deserve it also every day."

Another honoree was Ex-Chief Richard Sullivan of the Valley Stream Fire Department, for his more than six decades of service to the community. At age 83, Sullivan continues to serve in the department, and remains an active member of the Benevolent Association. He has worked with the village since 1960, and celebrated his 65th year in the department and the association this year.

County Executive Bruce Blakeman, who was also in attendance, lauded the first responders for their unwavering commitment to the community. "Without first responders, the residents of Nassau would be less happy and less safe," Blakeman said.

First responders honored by Congressman Anthony D'Esposito

- | | |
|--|--|
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Mulé brings tax workshop to Oceanside

By RYAN DEMINO

Intern

Nassau County Legislator Debra Mulé partnered with the Nassau County Department of Assessment to host a Homeowner Exemption Liaison Program (HELP) workshop at the Oceanside Library on Monday, Aug. 19.

The event, designed to assist homeowners in navigating the often complex process of applying for property tax exemptions, attracted a significant turnout, particularly from senior citizens living on fixed incomes.

“Anytime we can provide the community with the ability to take a look at what’s available to them in the way of tax exemptions, that’s important,” Mulé said. “If we can help them connect them with the tax exemptions they’re eligible for, that they should be getting, that’s a great thing.”

The workshop offered personalized assistance to homeowners applying for various tax exemptions, including those for veterans, senior citizens, Cold War veterans, volunteer firefighters, ambulance workers, and individuals with disabilities.

Enhanced STAR applications were also processed for homeowners already enrolled in the STAR program before Jan. 2, 2015.

The initiative aims to make the exemption application process as straightforward as possible, particularly for seniors who might find it difficult to travel to county offices.

“We’re really pushing to promote that ease of transaction and ease of help, especially with the exemption process,” John McQuade, a coordinator for the program said. “There’s a lot of different layers to the information required, and our goal is to streamline



Ryan Demino/Herald

Debra Mulé and John McQuade helped out residents.

that process by answering questions on the spot and helping with paperwork.”

McQuade also noted that the program had evolved over the years from a simple tax exemption workshop to a more comprehensive service under the HELP initiative.

“This program is about promoting the idea that we’re here to help you get that exemption,” he added.

The event was well-received by attendees, who appreciated the convenience of having such services offered locally. The Freeport and Baldwin communities also received sessions on Aug. 20 and 22.

“It’s nice that they’re looking out for citizens like me, who are looking for creative ways to help lower their tax burden,” said Oceanside resident Mark Greenberg, who participated in the workshop. “The number system really helped, and the advice was great. I left with some informational pamphlets, and I’m going to be following up with the county when I’m done with the paperwork.”

The workshop at Oceanside Library is part of a series of similar events held across Nassau County. This year, about 35 such events are planned, mostly in libraries and community centers, with some even taking place in senior centers.

The goal is to reach as many residents as possible, and ensure they are informed about the exemptions available to them, as well as the processes required to acquire them.

“We love providing joint programs with (Nassau County Agencies), so we give them an opportunity to extend their services beyond just the county or town buildings,” said Tony Iovino, assistant director of the Oceanside Library. “Whatever we can do to help use our facility to get government services into our local people’s hands, we’re happy to do.”

Residents are encouraged to bring copies of their 2023 federal and state tax returns, along with any required documentation, to streamline the process.

For more information about upcoming HELP events or to obtain a list of necessary documentation, residents can contact the Nassau County Department of Assessment at 516-571-1500.

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PickleballXPO looks to make an impact

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

wanted to create a space where people could come together and enjoy the increasingly popular sport.

His wife and son are avid pickleball players, and they recognized a lack of local indoor facilities.

"I knew there was an unmet need, and there's a tremendous demand for pickleball," Ring said. "I started to think, if I can get a place, maybe be a good idea to get into this business. If I could do something for my family and the community, it'd be a home run, and everybody was complaining that they had a drive out."

The closest pickleball facility is Pickleball Plus in West Hempstead.

"It's quite a bit of a drive, and the only other place that people could play was either outdoors, which you can't do in the winter time, or some of these parks when there was good weather," Ring said. "There's such a demand, and you had to just wait."

Pickleball XPO will employ a team of 11 staff members, including five coaches for all age groups and skill levels, ensuring everyone from children to seniors can improve their game.

Ring's partner in this endeavor, Frank Milillo, a 68-year-old Rockville Centre resident, will be one of the coaches at the center. Milillo launched his own business, Long Island Pickleball Pros, in 2020, capitalizing on the growing interest in the sport during the Covid-19 pandemic. When Milillo learned about Ring's plan to open a pickleball center in Oceanside, he knew it was the perfect opportunity to combine his passion with a larger vision.

"I realized that with my contacts, experience and love for pickleball, I could be a great fit for this venture," Milillo said.

Now, as a full-time head pro at the Pickleball XPO, Milillo is eager to help others, of all ages, discover and



Kepherd Daniel/Herald

The Ring family — David, Rachel and Sam — are changing the landscape of recreational sports in Oceanside by opening a brand new center for the increasingly popular sport of pickleball.

enjoy the sport.

"Pickleball is not only just a competitive sport, it's probably the most social sport you'll ever play," Milillo said. "You all have pickleball friends, and all you do is talk about the pickleball with your friends. We intend to promote this among everyone, from the second graders, all the way up to 80-year-olds."

Ring's son, Sam, 31, who's handling the marketing and operational end of Pickleball XPO, has a background in events planning and sustainability from Johnson and Wales University and is also passionate about pickleball.

"We're going to have a lot of tournaments," Sam Ring said. "We're gonna be hosting a lot of events in the new event space that we're building. Event space is the biggest part of the business."

David Ring's daughter, Rachel, 23, an Oceanside High School alumna and a current teacher in East Rockaway, has been involved in the staff management side of the business.

"I will have to take a step back a little bit, but once I get kind of the swing of things, I'll be back," she said.

Pickleball XPO will also feature dedicated areas for socializing and is equipped to host various events, including tournaments, corporate outings, charity events and community gatherings.

The center's grand opening will be marked by a ribbon-cutting ceremony, with Chamber of Commerce members expected to attend, and the event will feature catering from Long Island Bagel in Oceanside.

David Ring expressed hope that the center could become a cornerstone of the community — a place where locals could come together to enjoy the sport, support local businesses and foster connections. He added that he also hopes to support the community in other ways.

"With Best Buy and Samsung, I got involved with some programs where we gave to inner city schools to help out," he said. "These are the kinds of things we'll introduce, whether it's via charitable work or anything we could do potentially down the road with schools through summer camp programs. Where there's an opportunity to get back, we will try to show some people through sports and leadership that they can make an impact in their communities."

"I have to open the front doors and get business going, but it's a story I want to tell because I think it's an important one," he added.

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Ryan Demino/Herald

The Buckleys' collection of 1800s memorabilia includes rocking chairs, spinning wheels, dolls and much more.

19th-century home has ties to Teddy Roosevelt

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ered that their new house was home to one Abraham Combs and his family in the late 1800s, and that it had been built in 1825.

In their research on the home, the Buckleys discovered that Roosevelt's family had at one point owned a property just down Silver Lane from theirs. They found out that Roosevelt often came to Oceanside as a child, was friendly with the Combs family, and even learned to shoot a gun at the Combs house. The Buckleys found all of this out in a book entitled "The History of Oceanside," produced by the Methodist Church of Oceanside and now a reference book at the Oceanside Library.

"We didn't know about the Teddy Roosevelt connection," Steven said. "Nobody knows about that. If it wasn't for me and getting that book, nobody would know."

The Buckleys, who were already history buffs, said that learning about the house's past only fueled their drive to expand their collection of artifacts, which now largely consists of those from the Civil War-era. The entire interior of their home is furnished in 19th-century style, featuring spinning wheels and dolls dating back to that time, as well as silhouette portraits, a seemingly lost art.

The couple have even dedicated an entire room to the Civil War artifacts, transforming what was once their son Danny's room into one filled with uniforms, weapons, and personal items

from soldiers of the era. The collection includes a lieutenant's cavalry uniform, complete with sash, boots, gloves and a hat, as well as one for a corporal. Particularly notable is a jacket that, astonishingly, matches one worn by an officer in a photograph Steven had owned for years, and only recently discovered the uncanny resemblance.

"We were put here — we believe we were actually sent here," Steven said, explaining how he and Kathy feel a certain purpose in making the building's history known.

As if the house weren't already interesting enough, the Buckleys recall how, 35 or so years ago, when he was young, their son Danny once described seeing a ghostly figure of a little girl dressed all in white. While most people might chalk such a story up to a child's imagination, the Buckleys were intrigued, and decided to investigate.

"We go (to the cemetery) and we're searching around," Steven recounted. "We find Abraham Combs and his wife, Charlotte's, headstone. Way in the back, we see Susan Combs: 1871 to 1872. She was a year old. She died in this house in 1872."

As they deepen their knowledge of their house and its history, the Buckleys remain committed to telling its story, and those of the people who lived there long before them. They have turned their home into something of a living museum, a place where the past is not just remembered, but kept alive for future generations.



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Herald file photo

The state Public Service Commission approved a rate hike for Liberty Utilities' customers in Nassau County, to be rolled out over the next three years. The increase will begin on Sept. 1.

Rate hike approved for Liberty Utilities

By JORDAN VALLONE
jvallone@liherald.com

The New York State Public Service Commission has approved a rate increase for Liberty Utilities, which provides water service to some 120,000 customers in Nassau County.

In May 2023, Liberty filed a notice with the commission, seeking rate increases of 42 percent and 39 percent in its Merrick and Lynbrook service areas, respectively. The company also requested a 13 percent rate hike in the Sea Cliff service area on the North Shore.

In the Lynbrook service area, which includes Oceanside and Island Park, the commission approved a 17 percent rate hike in the first year, 15 percent in the second year and 13 percent in the third year.

Communities in the Merrick service area include Bellmore, East Massapequa, Levittown, Massapequa, Merrick, North Bellmore, North Seaford, North Wantagh, Seaford and Wantagh. The Sea Cliff service area encompasses Glen Head, Glenwood Landing, Sea Cliff and parts of Glen Cove, Old Brookville and Roslyn.

In those areas, the commission approved a rate increase of 9.2 percent in the first year, and 4.5 percent in both the second and third years.

The new rates go into effect on Sept. 1, and the rate plan will be effective through March 31, 2027. Depending on the service area, a typical residential customer using 8,000 gallons of water per month will pay between \$54.51 and

\$87.32 in the first year.

Last year's proposal came after a rate freeze, which Liberty had agreed to after it purchased New York American Water, the previous water service company, in January 2022. The proposal stated that the company sought the rate hikes to offset the cost of "necessary plant investments, high tax burdens, the installation of advanced metering infrastructure, proposed low-income and arrearage management programs, and a fee-free program for electronic payment of Liberty NYW invoices."

Liberty's proposal also stated that the rate hike would help cover the cost of 17 new jobs that were created at its Merrick offices, as well as the "implementation of a low-income program," to aid customers in need.

While rate proposal negotiations were under way, two public entities, the South Nassau Water Authority and the Water Authority of the North Shore, have been discussing the possibility of municipalizing Liberty's Long Island districts. The SNWA includes the Lynbrook and Merrick service areas, while WANS includes the Sea Cliff service area. The public authorities were created by Gov. Kathy Hochul in November 2021.

Virtual hearings at which the rate proposal was discussed began last fall, and those who spoke against the increase asked that it be delayed until it was known if the public entities could properly execute a public takeover of Liberty, which is a private company. Ultimately, the commission agreed to delay its decision on the increase.

Another set of hearings were held in July, and the decision came at last week's PSC session on Aug. 15.

The commission decided that the rate increase would benefit Liberty Water's customers.

"With this three-year plan, the company will be able to continue to provide its customers with clean, safe water and to save money by promoting and encouraging conservation and reducing leakage," Commission Chair Rory Christian said. "Adoption of this rate plan ensures critical investments that are good for the rates customers will pay, and good for their assurance of safe and adequate service."

At last week's session, Commissioner David Valesky said he found "no evidence" that a rate increase would prohibit the public authorities from continuing to work toward municipalization.

"I also found no evidence in this record that would show a potential rate increase ... would impact any municipalization negotiations in any way," Valesky added. "So to those who continue to be interested in municipalization in Nassau County, I see nothing in this order that will impede those efforts."

Assemblywoman Michaelle Solages, who represents areas in Liberty's jurisdiction, noted that the increases that were approved last week are significantly lower than those Liberty originally sought. The company was initially seeking a cumulative 34 percent increase across its Long Island water districts.

Even though the approved hikes are lower, Solages said, the fight for public

By the numbers

- Rate hike begins Sept. 1 and ends March 31, 2027.
- A typical residential customer using 8,000 gallons of water per month will pay between \$54.51 and \$87.32 the first year.

water is not over.

"Liberty Water customers will still have hundreds of dollars added onto their bills over the next few years, and will continue to pay considerably more than neighbors serviced by public water," Solages said in an emailed statement. "Now, we must press the South Nassau Water Authority to expedite their efforts toward a public takeover of Liberty Water. Our community deserves an affordable, reliable water service — not the current system where rates are dictated by a private company beholden to shareholders."

"It is long past time for the South Nassau Water Authority's board members to do their jobs by breaking Liberty's monopoly on this essential resource," Nassau County Legislator Seth Koslow said, "and delivering on our collective demands for affordable, high-quality public water."

For more on the rate increase case, and to see the public filings related to the decision, visit [DPS.ny.gov](https://dps.ny.gov), and search case No. 23-00979.

STEPPING OUT

At The grill



Chicken and Pineapple Skewers

Grilled Watermelon, Feta and Balsamic Crackers

Asian Style Ribs

Summer's farewell is best enjoyed with some al fresco entertaining

By Karen Bloom

Fire up that grill to savor summer's waning days over Labor Day weekend. When it comes to entertaining outdoors, easy yet flavorful dishes that spotlight the season's bountiful harvest can keep prep time to a minimum. Plus, they're sure to please guests' palates.

Of course, appetizers while you wait for the grill to heat are practically a requirement, after all. Instead of the typical rich, creamy dips, try a lighter approach, like some cracker canapes. That set the stage for what's to come.

Grilled Watermelon, Feta and Balsamic Crackers

- 4 watermelon wedges (1/2-inch thick slices, 4 inches wide at base)
- 16 multi-grain crackers of your choice
- 1/4 cup finely crumbled feta cheese
- 1/4 cup prepared balsamic reduction
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh mint
- Kalamata olives, optional

Heat grill to medium-high; grease grate well. Grill watermelon wedges, turning once, 3-5 minutes, or until grill-marked on both sides. Cut each watermelon wedge into four smaller wedges.

Top each cracker with watermelon wedge and sprinkle with feta. Drizzle with balsamic reduction.

Garnish with fresh mint.

Tip: Add finely chopped Kalamata olives for a tangy twist.

Chicken and Pineapple Skewers

- 8 skewers
- 1 pineapple
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 3/4 boneless skinless chicken breasts, diced into 1-inch pieces

Soak wooden skewers for 15 minutes prior to grilling.

Heat grill to medium-high heat.

Remove rind from pineapple and dice into 1-inch pieces.

In small bowl, combine oil, salt and pepper. Add chicken and pineapple; toss to coat.

Alternating chicken and pineapple, pierce onto skewers.

Grill skewers 8 minutes each side, or until chicken is cooked thoroughly. Serve with lemon-cucumber salsa; makes 4 servings.

Lemon-Cucumber Salsa

- 1 lemon, supremed
- 1 cucumber, diced
- 1/2 red onion, diced
- 1 tablespoon wildflower honey
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper

In medium bowl, combine lemon, cucumber, onion, honey and pepper.

Tip: Supreme citrus fruit by cutting off top and bottom of fruit then cut away peel and pith, leaving no white on outside of fruit. Slice each segment into wedges by cutting toward center of fruit along membrane.

Asian Style Ribs

- 1/2 cup kosher salt
- 1/3 cup light brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground anise or fennel seed
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 2 racks St. Louis-Style spareribs, membrane removed
- 1 handful hickory or apple wood chips for smoking, soaked in water and drained (optional)
- 2 cups hoisin barbecue sauce

About 30 minutes before grilling, make the dry rub.

Combine the first six ingredients in small bowl; mix well.

Generously coat both sides of ribs with rub. Set aside at room temperature for 30 minutes.

Heat charcoal or gas grill for indirect cooking at 275 F.

Add drained wood chips, if using.

Place the ribs, meaty side up, over a drip pan and cook for 2 hours. Add about 12 coals to a charcoal grill every 45 minutes or so to maintain the heat.

Remove ribs from grill. Double-wrap each rack in heavy-duty aluminum foil. Return wrapped ribs to the grill and cook for 2 hours more over indirect heat, until very tender.

Remove ribs from grill and unwrap. Place ribs over direct heat on grill and brush with hoisin barbecue sauce. Cook for about 5 minutes until the sauce is set.

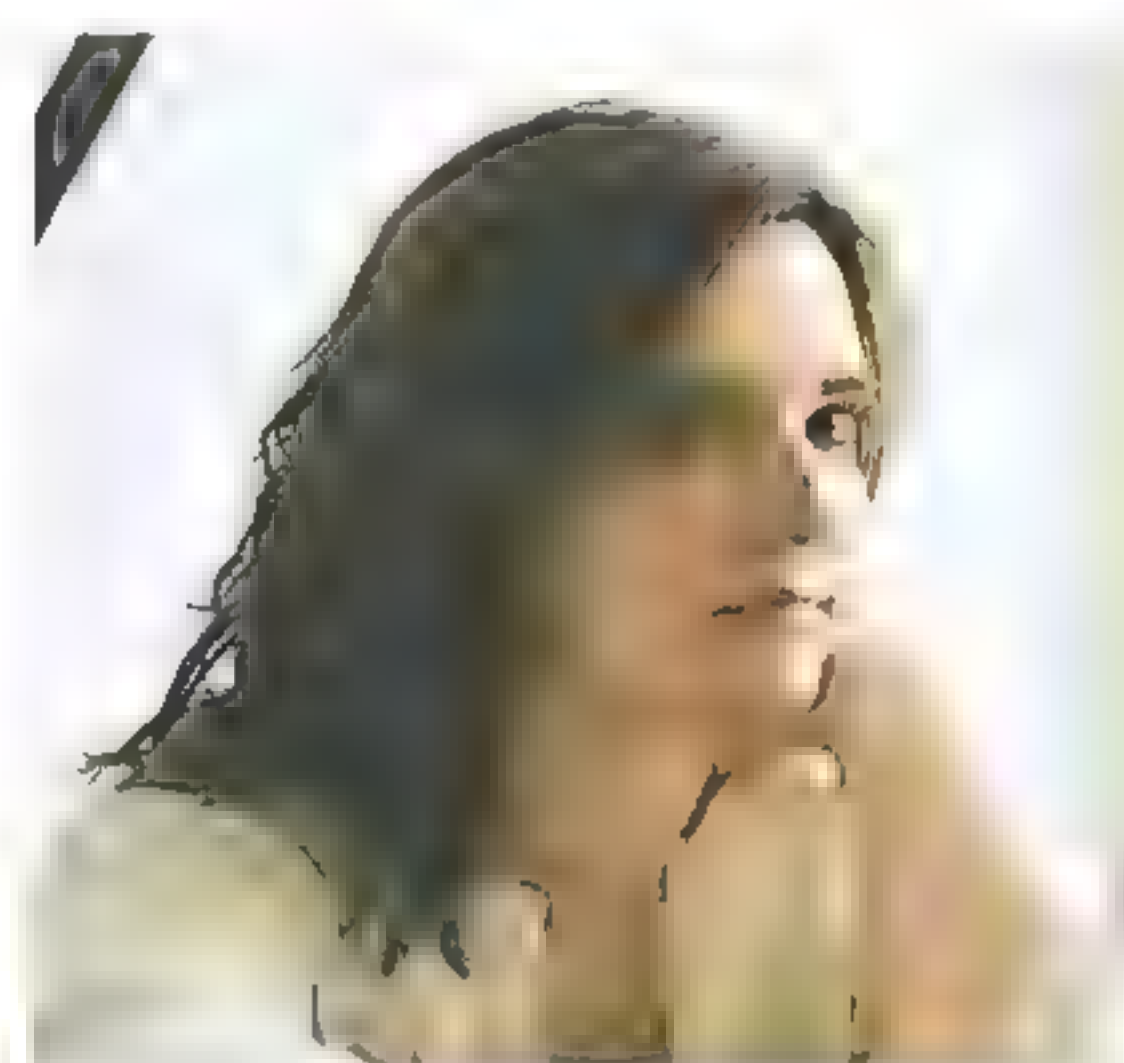
Turn ribs and repeat with more sauce. Serve ribs with remaining hoisin barbecue sauce.



Dweezil Zappa

Guitarist Dweezil Zappa brings the aptly named "Rox-Postrophy" Tour to the Paramount stage. Zappa is celebrating two of his father Frank Zappa's landmark albums, "Roxy & Elsewhere" and "Apostrophe." The tour commemorates the 50th Anniversary of both albums and Zappa has curated a setlist highlighting fan-favorite tracks from each record, replete with unique hybrid arrangements. Known for his masterful performances and deep connection to his father's music, he returns to concert stages for the first time since the 2020 Hot Ratz Live! Tour, continuing to guide fans through the thrilling and sophisticated world of his father's music. His music effortlessly traverses genres, seamlessly weaving together elements of rock, fusion, and experimental sounds, all while maintaining a signature style that is unmistakably his own. In addition to his solo work

Friday, Aug. 30, 8 p.m. \$89, \$79.50, \$69.50, \$59.50, \$49.50, \$39.50.
The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com or ParamountNY.com.



Brandy Clark

Grammy and CMA Award-winner, Brandy Clark is one of her generation's most esteemed songwriters and musicians. A perennial critics' favorite, Brandy Clark is "universally revered" among fellow country songwriters, having penned hits for Kacey Musgraves, Band Perry, Darius Rucker, and Miranda Lambert (Los Angeles Times). But Nashville's sought-after tunesmith is coming into the spotlight after a whirlwind period that included her Broadway debut as co-composer/lyricist of the Tony Award-winning musical "Shucked," the release of her latest self-titled album (produced by close friend and collaborator, Brandi Carlile), and winning the Grammy Award for Best Americana Performance for her haunting hit ballad, "Dear Insecurity."

Wednesday, Sept. 4, 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$35. Tilles Center for the Performing Arts, LIU Post campus, 720 Northern Boulevard, Brookville. Tickets available at TillesCenter.org or (516) 299-3100.

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD THE \$ SCENE

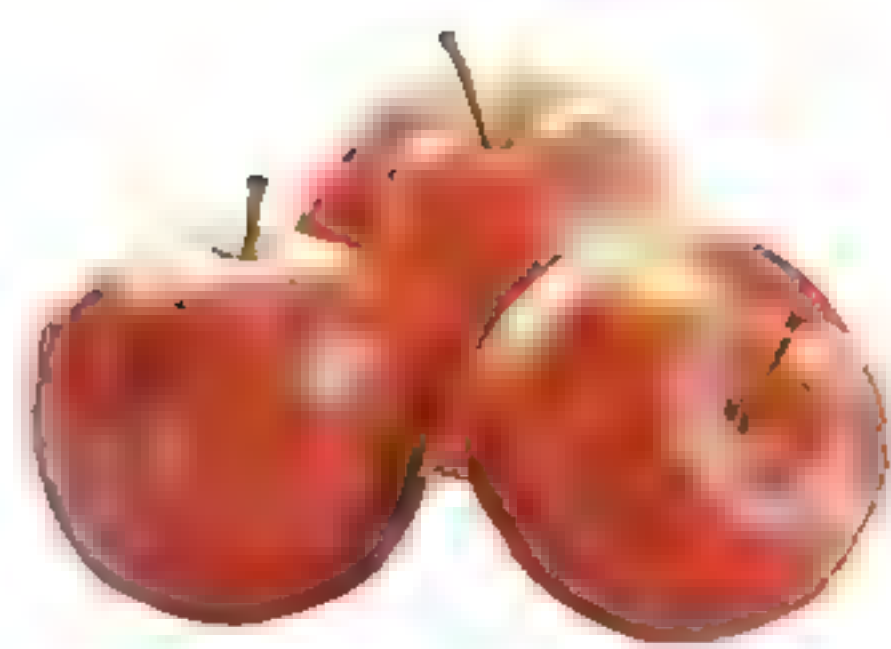
Sept.
7

The Jackie Mason Musical

Laughs abound when this

entertaining show arrives on the Landmark stage, Friday, **Sept. 7**, 8 p.m., and Saturday, Sept. 8, 3 p.m. It's based on the playwright's 10-year whirlwind romance with comedy legend Jackie Mason, featuring a hilarious cast of characters, including lovechild comic Sheba Mason. Since the passing of the eight-time comic in late 2021, the ending has been written. The Jackie Mason Musical begins at a deli in Miami Beach in 1977, where Jackie — then a 46-year-old comedian — spots college girl Ginger (played by Jackie and the playwright's real life daughter Sheba Mason in the Off-Broadway production).

Along for the ride is her overbearing mom and five off-beat characters. Soon Jackie is wooing Ginger each winter whenever he's in South Florida churning up laughs with the South Beach set. The trouble is, Jackie is also wooing Trixie, a ravishing young Latina server, and Rosa, a senior server with attitude. Jackie is a "player," albeit a Delicatessen player, manipulating dates, and times, all managed by a sidekick named Wooley the Shlepalong who is constantly on the go with excuses and fallback plans for the comic's escapades — sometimes juggling as many as four women a day — a fact that sends Ginger into romantic distress. It's a tour de force highlighting Mason's romantic misadventures as Broadway stardom emerges and Sheba is born. Jeanne Rimsky Theater at Landmark on Main Street, 232 Main St., Port Washington. Visit LandmarkOnMainStreet.org for tickets and information, or call (516) 767-6444.



Abundant Apple Trees

Fall arrives soon and Long Island Children's Museum is ready to welcome the season, Thursday, **Sept. 5**, 2:30-4 p.m. Drop by the Inner Lobby craft table with the kids to take part in a themed craft using various materials. September is the month most apples are at their peak for harvesting, so make an apple tree craft to bring home. Long Island Children's Museum, Museum Row, Garden City. (516) 224-5800 or LICM.org.

Overdose Awareness Day Ceremony

Oceanside SAFE invites all to the annual Overdose Awareness Day gathering, Thursday, **Aug. 29**, 6 p.m., at Schoolhouse Green. The event, in remembrance of those who have lost their lives to overdose, includes a flower planting ceremony, memorial crafts, entertainment, and free Narcan training provided by Dr. Dawn Williamson of NUMC, along with prevention resources. Hosted by Oceanside SAFE and the Oceanside Community Coalition. Foxhurst Road.



Rockin' Labor Day

Rock on at Point Lookout for a rousing Labor Day weekend celebration, at Town Park Point Lookout, with Mike DelGuidice, Saturday, **Aug. 31**, 8 p.m. The free concert, hosted by the Town of Hempstead, concludes with fireworks.

DelGuidice, known for his appearances with Billy Joel, captivates audiences all over with his renditions of the Joel hits, along with his own tunes. 1300 Lido Blvd. in Point Lookout. For information, visit toh.li.

Art talk

Grab your lunch and join Nassau County Museum of Art Docent Riva Ettus for her popular "Brown Bag Lecture" at the museum, Thursday, **Sept. 5**, 1 p.m. She'll discuss the current exhibition, "Seeing Red: Renoir to Warhol." Participants are invited to ask questions at the end of the in-depth program and also participate in a guided exhibition tour following the lecture. No registration required, but limited seating. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. (516) 484-9337 or NassauMuseum.org.

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Garden Club meeting

Garden enthusiasts are invited to the monthly garden club meeting on Tuesday, **Sept. 10**, at 7 p.m. at Oceanside Library. This event is perfect for those looking to share tips and ideas with fellow gardeners. 56 Atlantic Ave. Visit oceansidelibrary.com for more information.

Legislator Patrick Mullaney Mobile Office Hours

Meet with Leg. Patrick Mullaney during his mobile office hours, on Wednesday, **Sept. 25**, 6-8 p.m., at Oceanside Library. This is an opportunity to discuss community issues and concerns. 56 Atlantic Ave.

Labor Day Fireworks

Village of Island Park hosts Labor Day concert by Superbad, block party and fireworks immediately after concert all on Masone Beach on Waterford Road on Aug. 31. Festivities begin at 7:30 p.m. Rain Date Sept. 1. Call 515-431-0600 for more info.

Sept.
14

Car show

Get revved up, Saturday, Sept. 14, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., for the Island Park Library's 2nd Annual Car Show. See a wide collection of new, classic, sports, retro, and muscle cars on display. Sign up to show your car; space is limited. 176 Long Beach Rd. Visit islandparklibrary.org for more information and to register.

San Gennaro Feast

Experience the vibrant San Gennaro Feast, Thursday through Sunday, **Sept. 5-8**, on Long Beach Road in Island Park. The opening procession will take place at 6:45 p.m. on Thursday, with Saturday evening also highly recommended for attendance. This feast is a beloved tradition, offering food, entertainment, and a sense of community spirit.

Having an event?

Items on The Scene page are listed free of charge. The Herald welcomes listings of upcoming events, community meetings and items of public interest. All submissions should include date, time and location of the event, cost, and a contact name and phone number. Submissions can be emailed to thescene@liherald.com.



Storybook Stroll

Bring the kids to Old Westbury Gardens for another storybook adventure, Saturday, **Sept. 7**, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Stroll the gardens and listen to Jen Arena's "Acorn Was A Little Wild!" Later create a unique take home craft. The stroll starts at the Beech Tree (next to Westbury House), ending at the Thatched Cottage. For ages 3-5. Old Westbury Gardens, 71 Old Westbury Rd., Old Westbury. For information visit OldWestburyGardens.org or contact (516) 333-0048.

On exhibit

Nassau County Museum of Art's latest exhibition "Seeing Red: Renoir to Warhol," reveals the many meanings, connotations, and associations of this powerful color in art. Evoking strong emotion, red can represent the human condition. Its myriad variations have come to signify authority as well as love, energy and beauty. Red warns us of peril and commands us to stop, but it can also indicate purity and good fortune. Red boldly represents political movements and religious identities. From the advent of our appreciation for this color in antiquity to its continued prominence in artistic and popular culture, this exhibition will span various world cultures through a range of media.

It features more than 70 artists, both established and emerging, ranging from the classical to the contemporary. American portraitists such as Gilbert Stuart imbued red in their stately paintings of prominent individuals to conjure authority. Robert Motherwell, Ad Reinhardt, and other major abstract painters displayed a deep fascination with red in their commanding compositions that evoke a sense of chromatic power. And, of course, Andy Warhol is known for his bold and imposing silkscreened portrait of Vladimir Lenin saturated in bright red to his signature Campbell's Soup Cans. On view through Jan. 5. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. (516) 484-9337 or NassauMuseum.org.



Sept.
28

Art League of L.I. exhibit

In support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Art League of Long Island presents "Retrospect - The Individual Art of Collaboration in Reconstructive Surgery." The exhibit delves into the interplay between personal artistry and collaborative efforts in the context of breast reconstruction, showcasing how the healing process can transcend medicine to become an inspiring narrative of restoration and personal resilience. This unique exhibition explores the intersection of medicine and art through the lens of two accomplished breast reconstruction surgeons, Dr. Ron Israeli and Dr. Jonathan Bank, whose careers and artistic endeavors are deeply intertwined.

The works on display show the multifaceted nature of artistic expression in medicine and surgery. Their work emphasizes the importance of collaborative creativity in the healing process, offering viewers a unique perspective on the emotional and physical aspects of breast reconstruction. On view **Sept. 28** through **Oct. 18**. Jeanie Tengelsen Gallery at Art League of Long Island, 107 East Deer Park Road, Dix Hills. Visit artleagueli.org for more information.

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Photos courtesy Oceanside Library

Summer reading pays off for young Oceanside kids, in more ways than one.

Oceanside Library wraps up summer reading

As summer draws to a close, so has the Oceanside Library's Children's Summer Reading Program. This year, 417 young readers, ranging from ages 3 through grade 6, participated in the program, collectively submitting an impressive 882 reviews of children's books. For our youngest readers (ages 3 to grade 2), each review earned them a Weekly Treasure Chest Prize, while older participants (grades 3-6) received raffle tickets for their entries, each ticket providing a chance to win one of twelve exciting prize baskets.

To celebrate the end of the program, the library hosted a magical wrap-up party at the Oceanside Jewish Center, delighting over 60 families with a whimsical magic show. The performance featured playful antics such as a rubber chicken, disappearing ketchup, and magically appearing coins, leaving the audience in awe. The evening concluded with a special magical ticket, goodie bags for the children, and plenty of smiles all around.

This year's summer reading theme, "Adventure Begins at Your Library," encouraged many of Oceanside's chil-



Young readers got to take home a bunch of prizes.

dren to embark on literary adventures with us. Looking ahead, the library is gearing up for its Annual OceanCon, scheduled for Oct. 27.

—Kepherd Daniel

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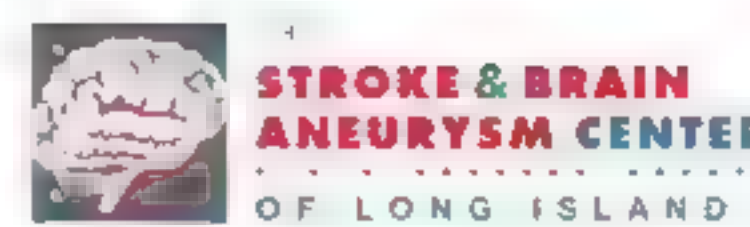
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SUPREME COURT
COUNTY OF NASSAU
MIDFIRST BANK, Plaintiff AGAINST DONALD SCHREINER, JR., MICHELLE RANOLDE-SCHREINER, ET AL., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered June 25, 2024, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the North Side steps of the Nassau County Supreme Court, 100 Supreme Court Drive, Mineola, NY 11501 on September 24, 2024 at 2:30PM, premises known as 235 Madison Ave, Oceanside, NY 11572. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Town of Hempstead, at Foxhurst Park, Oceanside, County of Nassau and State of New York, Section 54 Block 239 Lot 156. Approximate amount of judgment \$490,828.12 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #612438/2022. The aforementioned auction will be conducted in accordance with the NASSAU County COVID-19 mitigation protocols and as such all persons must comply with social distancing, wearing masks and screening practices in effect at the time of this foreclosure sale. If proper social distancing cannot be maintained or there are other health or safety concerns, then the court appointed referee will cancel the foreclosure auction. Foreclosure Auctions will be held "Rain or Shine". Jane Shrenkel, Esq., Referee Gross Polowy, LLC 1775 Wehrle Drive Williamsville, NY 14221 22-003408 81860 148489

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
BY THE BOARD OF APPEALS
Pursuant to New York State Town Law Article 16, New York State Public Officers Law Article 7,

and the Town of Hempstead Building Zone Ordinance, NOTICE is hereby given that the BOARD OF APPEALS of the Town of Hempstead will hold a public hearing in the Old Town Hall, 350 Front Street, Room 230, Second Floor, Hempstead, New York on 09/04/2024 at 2:00 P.M. to consider the following applications and appeals:

THE FOLLOWING CASES WILL BE CALLED STARTING AT 2:00 P.M.
554/24. OCEANSIDE - Michael Tirado, Renewal of grant to maintain pool & pool deck not permitted in front yard on Messick Ave. & 6' & 9' high fence larger than pool installation area & forward of dwelling, S/W cor. W. Windsor Pkwy. & Messick Ave., a/k/a 279 W. Windsor Pkwy. 559/24. NR ISLAND PARK - 128 F Realty Corp., Renewal of grant to maintain double-faced, illuminated, detached ground sign with price sign thereon; 65 sq. ft. per face & overall size 130 sq. ft. & overall height 20' & not expressly permitted in "GSS" district, S/W cor. Austin Blvd. & Louisiana Ave., a/k/a 3980 Austin Blvd. ALL PAPERS PERTAINING TO THE ABOVE HEARING ARE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AT THE BOARD OF APPEALS, TOWN HALL, 1 WASHINGTON STREET, HEMPSTEAD, NY 11550. This notice is only for new cases in Oceanside & Island Park within Town of Hempstead jurisdiction. There are additional cases in different hamlets, towns and villages on the Board of Appeals calendar. The full calendar is available at <https://hempsteadny.gov/509/Board-of-Appeals>. The internet address of the website streaming for this meeting is <https://hempsteadny.gov/576/Live-Streaming-Video>. Interested parties may appear at the above time and place. At the call of the Chairman, the Board will consider decisions on the foregoing and those on the Reserve Decision calendar and such other matters as may properly come before it. 148638

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LEGAL NOTICE
STATE OF NEW YORK
SUPREME COURT:
COUNTY OF NASSAU
U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO STATE STREET BANK AND TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR GSMP'S MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2001-1, Plaintiff,

v. MAXIMO A. MACARIO, ET AL, Defendants. NOTICE OF SALE IN FORECLOSURE PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT In pursuance of a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the Office of the County Clerk of Nassau County on May 17, 2018, I, Ronald J. Ferraro, Esq., the Referee named in said Judgment, will sell in one parcel at public auction on September 12, 2024 at North Side Steps of the Nassau County Supreme Court, 100 Supreme Ct. Dr., Mineola, NY 11501, at 02:00 PM the premises described as follows: 44 Warwick Road Island Park, NY 11558 43-31-377 ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND situate in the Village of Island Park, Town of Hempstead, County of Nassau, State of New York. The premises are sold subject to the provisions of the filed judgment, Index No. 015498/2013 in the amount of \$319,315.95 plus interest and costs. The aforementioned auction will be conducted in accordance with the Court System's COVID-19 mitigation protocols and as such all persons must comply with social distancing, wearing masks and screening practices in effect at the time of this foreclosure sale. Woods Oviatt Gilman LLP Attorneys for Plaintiff 500 Bausch & Lomb Place Rochester, NY 14604 Tel.: 855-227-5072 148327

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Jaci Zitman/Herald photos

Catherine Campos, Diesel, Wyatt, Shannon Campos, Sunny, Debbie Keehner and Emily Vanallen all came out for a fun day of dog walking.



Emily Vanallen and Debbie Keehner welcomed dog walkers to the park.

A 'Paw'some day for dogs at Oceanside Park

Dog owners and their furry friends gathered at the Town of Hempstead Dog Run in Oceanside Park on Aug. 16, for a fun-filled "Pawsome Day."

Sponsored by the Oceanside Library, the event kicked off at 3800 Mahlon Brower Drive and offered a variety of activities for dogs and their owners. Attendees enjoyed the sunny day, making new friends and sharing tips on pet care.

The event was a hit, showcasing the strong bond between the community and their beloved pets.

-Kepherd Daniel

Murray was sporting a bright blue Oceanside library ascot.



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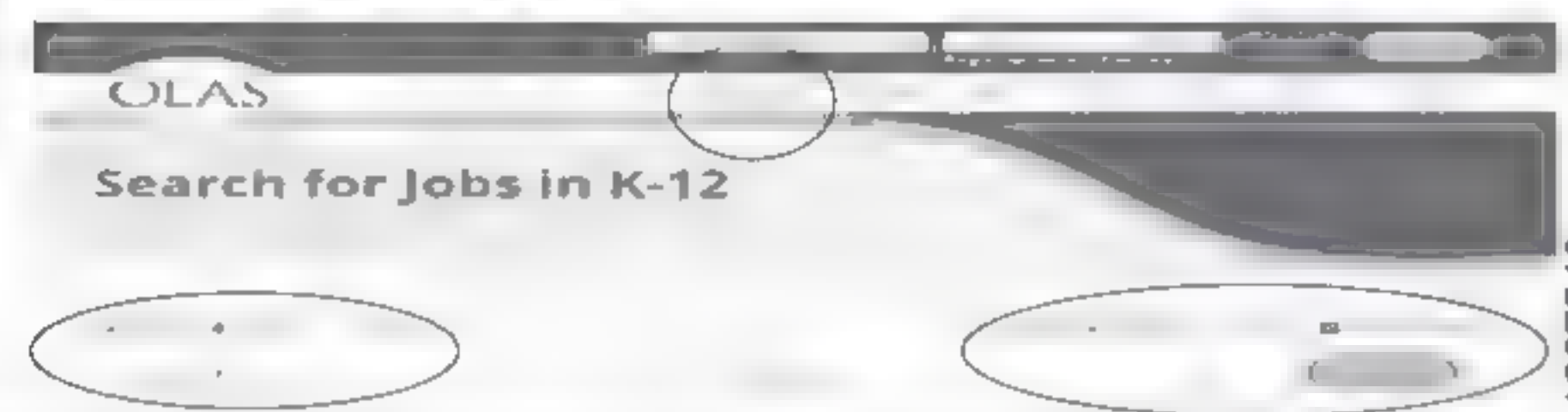
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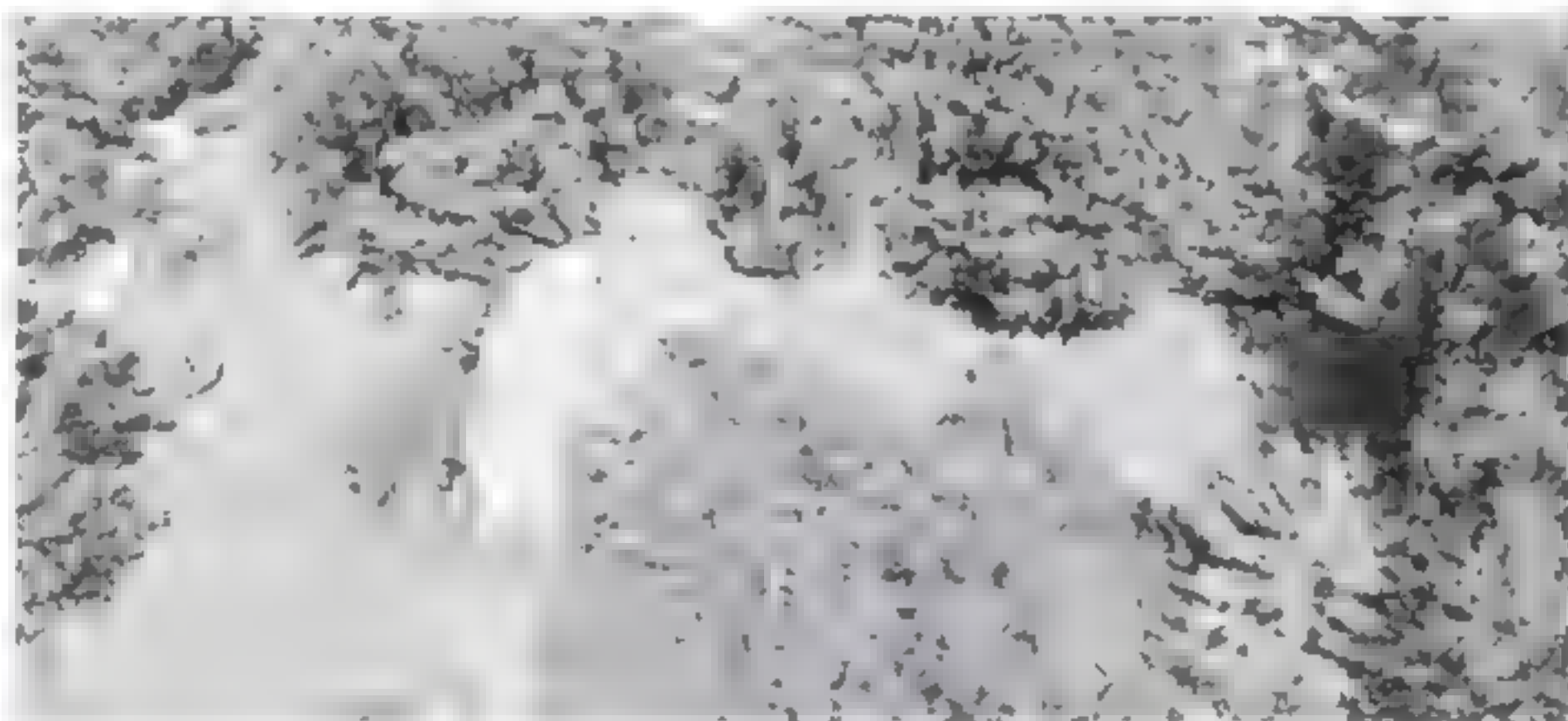
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Q. Our attic air conditioning leaked into our ceiling. The ceiling is so wet we need to replace it. We now understand we'll need to have the pipe that drains water out of our A.C. drain pan blown out every spring, and now have a service contract for that. The insulation is also wet. We were told to let it dry out and it will be fine. Is this true? Also, the ceiling joists over our 12-foot-wide master bedroom are only 2 x 6, which might cause the ceiling to sag and isn't enough for the insulation, we're told, which we understand has to be 10 inches thick. When we asked our contractor about this, he told us we can push the insulation down and then replace the plywood floor in our attic. What do you think?

A. When it rains, it pours. The leaking was a wakeup call that A.C. unit condensation occurs every summer season, and even though you have a drain pan, if it doesn't have a working sensor to shut off before the drain pan overflows and you never clean the drain pan pipe to the outdoors, the water overflows. You should, by law (code), have a floor in the attic around the unit, also, which can dry out, since it remains structural, and will be minimally affected by the water.

Ask The Architect



MONTE LEEPER

The insulation and the sheetrock are another story. If the sheetrock hasn't loosened and isn't sagging, then it can just be left to dry out. Make certain, even using a moisture meter, that the sheetrock is completely dry before repainting to avoid potential mildew and discoloration. The insulation, if it is either fiberglass or closed-cell foam, can be dried out also, but only if it can be exposed. This means removing the plywood flooring above so that air can get to the insulation.

In addition, the insulation should be inspected to see that it isn't compressed by the saturation weight of the water, since compressing insulation, contrary to what you were told, actually takes away the ability for it to work properly. The principle behind insulation technology isn't just the use of thermally resistant material but, most critically, the insulation forms tiny air pockets within the material that form the resistance to air passing through. Each trapped air bubble slows the transfer of cold or heat by first conducting or resisting the temperature change within the air molecules.

Heat moves by one of three mechanical principles, convection, conduction and radiation. If the air bubbles or pockets in the insulation are pressed closer together and the material made denser by this, the conduction or transfer of temperature is easier, so the insulation has less likelihood of resisting, and resisting is what you want insulation to do. It would be great to rebuild the floor with deeper joists or have closed-cell foam sprayed in, since it also resists water saturation to solve the problem. Good luck!

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Readers are encouraged to send questions to yourhousedr@aol.com, with "Herald question" in the subject line, or to Herald Homes, 2 Endo Blvd., Garden City, NY 11530, Attn: Monte Leeper, architect.

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Solution time: 26 mins.

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HERALD Crossword Puzzle

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Apt. coolers
- 4 Fishing rod
- 8 Choir voice
- 12 New Deal agcy.
- 13 "Zounds!"
- 14 Chiefs coach Andy
- 15 Boring types
- 17 Tear
- 18 Bad habit
- 19 Woodland walks
- 20 Computer problem
- 22 Swedish auto
- 24 Spartan queen
- 25 Dijon products
- 29 Tokyo's historic name
- 30 Quick looks
- 31 Hasten
- 32 Sends on, as an email
- 34 Kick back
- 35 Bee's home
- 36 Comic Hedberg
- 37 Sutor
- 40 Shakespeare villain
- 41 Reedy
- 42 Birds of prey
- 46 Queue
- 47 Yankee nickname
- 48 Debtor's letters

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| | 16 Kudrow of "Friends" | 38 Use an egg-beater |
| | 19 Millinery | 39 "— She Sweet" |
| | 20 Staff symbol | 40 Sport shirt brand |
| | 21 Decorate anew | 42 Cote cry |
| | 22 Soft leather | 43 Internet address |
| | 23 Requests | 44 Scooby— |
| | 25 TV mogul Griffin | 45 Heat source |
| | 26 Art of speaking | |
| | 27 Platter | |
| | 28 Third son | |
| | 30 Ache | |
| | 33 Bellyaches | |

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OPINIONS

Vance needs to get his immigrant story straight

The Republican nominee for vice president, J.D. Vance, recently claimed that waves of Italian, Irish and German immigrants in the 19th century created “ethnic enclaves” and “inter-ethnic conflicts.”

Attempting to prove his point, Vance cited “Gangs of New York,” the 2002



PETER KING

Marin Scorsese film starring Daniel Day-Lewis, Leonardo DiCaprio and Cameron Diaz. I strongly believe that Vance was historically wrong and off the mark on all counts.

As a grandson of immigrants, let me make clear my own position

that the United States is a land of immigrants, and over the generations, immigrants have been the lifeblood of America, weaving their hard work and imagination into our national fabric. I just as strongly believe that immigration must be legal and regulated. A nation without borders soon will no

longer be a nation, which is why the Biden administration’s open-border policy has been so perilous.

Critical as I am of President Biden’s immigration policies, I consider Vance’s conclusions an uninformed interpretation of history and a gratuitous cheap shot at New York, which in the 19th and early 20th centuries was an exemplar of the benefits of immigration.

For starters, the main protagonist in “Gangs of New York” was Day-Lewis’s William “Bill the Butcher” Cutting, a killer who headed a nativist gang that attacked and terrorized Irish immigrants. Entirely the opposite of what Vance was claiming.

More telling than Vance’s misreading of the film he was relying on to make his misguided point was his myopic depiction of neighborhoods in which immigrants settled as “ethnic enclaves” rather than vital components of the stained glass window mosaic that made New York the world’s greatest city.

These so-called enclaves were in truth neighborhoods where immigrants could actually avoid conflict and attacks from anti-immigrant know-nothings, and adapt to their new world

while being with their “own kind.” This might not have been perfect, but it worked. As Sen. Pat Moynihan eloquently described in his classic work “Beyond the Melting Pot,” each generation would move forward from its enclave while maintaining its own identity and adding to the mosaic’s overall beauty. Depending on what skills and traditions were brought over

from the old country, some groups would advance further or in different fields than others.

For example, Irish Catholic immigrants had the advantage of speaking English, or at least our version of it. Plus, they were able to take their Catholic experience of having grown up in local parishes, under the overall tight control of bishops, and adapt it to New York’s politics, which they took over and controlled for decades.

But each of these groups, and the immigrants who followed, made enormous contributions to New York, and indeed to the nation, in industry, labor, education, law enforcement, the arts, the military, finance, sports, science, and so much more. All this resulted from an experiment that succeeded to an extent unequaled anywhere in the world.

Illegal immigration is dangerous, and must be stopped. It poses a definite terrorist threat and an economic danger to American citizens and lawful immigrants. But to make their case against it in this presidential campaign, Republicans should not use false, unintelligent, nativist arguments that besmirch the value and benefit that legal immigration brings to all Americans.

Just as Vance sees nobility and dignity in his self-described hillbilly heritage, so too should New Yorkers, and Long Islanders, be proud of our immigrant ancestry. That is what will make America great again.

Peter King is a former congressman, and a former chair of the House Committee on Homeland Security. Comments? pking@liherald.com.

Congestion pricing may again haunt motorists

Like the Ghost of Christmas Past, or Lazarus rising from the dead, congestion pricing, sidelined earlier this year by Gov. Kathy Hochul, is due to rear its ugly head sometime later this year. The question is, what form will it take, and will it be any better than the past version?



JERRY KREMER

With little regard for motorists or truckers, this year’s version was an arrogant and blind proposal destined to become an albatross around the necks of any drivers daring to venture into Manhattan below 60th street. The bosses of the Metropolitan

Transportation Authority, led by their arrogant chairman, Janno Lieber, decided in advance that the public would swallow whatever plan they decided on. To paper over the plan, the MTA conducted a series of sham hearings, and then told the world that on June 30, the MTA would start collecting the higher tolls — \$15 for cars and \$35 for trucks.

Hochul, acting on a number of complaints that the plan was ill-conceived, shocked the bureaucrats by pulling the plug at the last minute. Supporters of the plan, anxious for the MTA to start hauling in the cash, were shell-shocked that the governor would have the nerve to halt its efforts. Numerous groups asked for changes in the proposal, but even the fairest suggestions were brushed aside.

There is no doubt that some of the claims for exemptions were hoggish and undeserved, but some of the pleas were well-motivated and worthy of consideration. To judge what is fair or unfair, you only had to take a look at the London congestion program to decide how to charge drivers who enter the congestion zone. The tolls there are collected only up until 6 p.m., and drivers can enter the city toll-free after that. The MTA, apparently oblivious to the theater industry and Manhattan’s countless restaurants, was determined to collect tolls at all hours. To add to the woes of these businesses, the charges for trucks were destined to become a consumer tax on every item sold in any

retail establishment in the city.

How did the London authorities get all the business interests to support their plan? They did it the old-fashioned way. They met with every possible

interest group and got support from all meaningful voices. What did the MTA do to win over its opponents? Nothing. Assuming that it was the only important voice on the pricing plan, the agency went full speed ahead, ignoring any serious claim for relief from the tolls.

What role has the New York City government played in this bruising battle? Mayor Eric Adams, who is supposed to protect the city’s business interests, sided with the MTA by stepping back and doing nothing. Has the city played any role in the traffic mess that drivers face every day as they attempt to work their way through perpetual gridlock? Much of that mess is due to the city’s years and years of traffic-related mistakes. Four of the five boroughs are choked with bicycle lanes that were created wherever the traffic commissioners wanted them.

A typical traffic disaster is Lexington Avenue. There are bus lanes on the

The MTA just went full speed ahead, unlike officials in London, who listened.

street that can barely handle double parking by trucks seeking to deliver products for commerce. School buses, and many of the thousands of Uber and Lyft cars trying to work their way through, face blockades from east-west traffic on the cross streets.

What has the MTA done to win over converts since Hochul stalled the plan? London officials worked hard to get unanimous support for their plan. But Lieber sits in his MTA ivory tower, content to let the politicians do the heavy lifting. Everybody agrees that with some honest bargaining, a fair toll plan could be agreed on that would lessen the burden on all sides.

Hochul has done her best to stall the plan, in the hope that some honest compromise can be reached. But once the State Legislature is forced to do something to keep trains and buses running, the lawmakers will pass legislation that will still make a lot of people very unhappy.

Jerry Kremer was an assemblyman for 23 years, and chaired the Assembly’s Ways and Means Committee for 12 years. He now heads Empire Government Strategies, a business development and legislative strategy firm. Comments about this column? jkremer@liherald.com.

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HERALD EDITORIAL

‘After-school’ activities benefit those of all ages

As the new school year begins on Long Island, students are returning not only to classrooms, but also to a vibrant world of extracurricular activities. While we often associate clubs, sports teams and after-school programs with youth development, it’s crucial to recognize that the benefits of such involvement extend far beyond childhood and adolescence. In fact, adults in Nassau County and beyond have just as much to gain by getting involved in activities outside their daily routines.

For students, the advantages of participation in extracurriculars are well documented. A study published in the Journal of Youth Development found that students involved in such activities were 15 percent more likely to attend college, and had a graduation rate 12 percent higher than their uninvolved peers. Moreover, these students reported higher levels of self-esteem and lower rates of depression and anxiety.

Local success stories abound. Look no further than all of the Regeneron Science Talent Search finalists whose journeys begin in our local schools’ robotics and science research clubs. Or the many All-American student-athletes who lead

our high school teams to victory.

But the benefits of extracurricular involvement aren’t limited to the young. Adults who take part in community organizations, hobby groups or sports leagues often report improved mental health, expanded social networks, and a greater sense of purpose. According to study in the Journal of Happiness Studies, adults who regularly engaged in group activities reported a 25 percent increase in life satisfaction compared with those who did not.

Nassau County offers a wealth of opportunities for adult involvement. Whether it’s signing up for a book club at the local library, joining a pickleball league in your neighborhood Nassau County park, or volunteering at the North Shore Animal League, there’s an avocation for everyone.

For those who are serious about physical activity, organizations like the Long Island Road Runners Club promote fitness and camaraderie among members of all ages and skill levels. Meanwhile, volunteering with groups such as Island Harvest offers a chance to give back to the community while forging meaningful connections.

The value of these activities extends

beyond personal fulfillment. A report by the Corporation for National and Community Service, also known as Americorps, found that volunteers have a 27 percent higher likelihood of finding employment after being out of work compared with non-volunteers. This statistic underscores the networking and skill-building aspects of extracurricular involvement.

In today’s fast-paced world, it’s easy to become consumed by work and daily responsibilities. However, engaging in extracurricular activities provides a crucial balance, offering opportunities for personal growth, stress relief, and community connection. As we watch our children discover new passions and develop important life skills through their after-school pursuits, let’s take inspiration from their enthusiasm and curiosity.

This fall, as Long Island’s students dive into a new year of learning both in and out of the classroom, let’s make it a community-wide initiative to explore the rich tapestry of extracurricular activities available to those of all ages. By doing so, we not only enrich our own lives, but also contribute to the vibrancy and interconnectedness of our communities.

LETTERS

Fossil fuels, offshore wind and the need for climate action

To the Editor:

Re “To beat the heat on Long Island, we must fight fossil fuels,” by Lauren Krueger, and “Offshore wind is the answer for Long Island,” by Melissa Parrott: These two opinion pieces accurately pinpoint the negative role played by fossil fuel companies in combating climate change, and stress the need to rapidly move toward 100 percent renewable energy.

As Krueger shows, the fossil fuel companies have lied to the public for years about the science and dangers of climate change — caused principally by their own products — and continue to spread misinformation and fear about critical renewable energy projects, such as offshore wind. And Parrott makes the point that offshore wind, an inexhaustible, renewable, affordable energy resource available off our South Shore, will go a long way toward meeting our energy needs, safely and in an environmentally friendly manner. Offshore wind is key to our energy future, and to saving our planet.

Unfortunately, there is currently insufficient action to halt the climate chaos we are now experiencing. We are running out of time. The bottom line is this: As the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has stated, to halt the rapid global heating we are now experiencing will require deep changes in the basic social, economic and political institutions we currently have.

One obvious and necessary change is to limit the



overriding power of the very industry that is now directly causing the climate crisis. We have the technology to transition away from fossil fuels, but our struggle will not be easy.

JIM BROWN
Conservation co-chair;
South Shore Audubon Society
Island Park

Let’s take a long look at Kamala Harris

To the Editor:

Re “Momalas for Kamala, a thread to unite us,” by Randi Kreiss (Aug. 8-14): As of this writing, Vice President Kamala Harris still has not met with the

OPINIONS

Behind the mask: the flaws in Nassau's new law

Imagine a law introduced to fight hate and bigotry — yet it is so flawed that it inadvertently shields those very perpetrators from justice.

That's precisely what happened on Aug. 5, when the Nassau County Legislature's Republican majority pushed through its so-called Mask Transparency Act — a law that, despite its intentions, opens the door to unintended consequences.



SETH I. KOSLOW

At first glance, the measure appears to be a strong stance against antisemitism, aimed at unmasking those who would hide behind disguises to commit hateful acts. As a Jewish parent, I understand the appeal of such a measure. But as a former prosecutor, I can't ignore the fact that this law is not only unconstitutional, but also dangerously impractical.

In this instance, the devil is in the details — or rather, in the lack of them. The legislation is rife with ambiguities that could turn ordinary citizens into targets of unjust prosecution, while allowing actual criminals to walk free.

The members of the Democratic minority recognized these flaws early on, and proposed a more narrowly tailored bill focused specifically on punishing those who use masks to evade responsibility for criminal acts. The Democratic bill was not only clearer, but would have provided a more effective deterrent against those who commit crimes under the guise of anonymity. My colleagues and I also sought to work with the Republicans on a bipartisan solution that could have been both effective and constitutionally sound. Unfortunately, Republicans rebuffed these efforts, pushing through their version of the law without considering the potential consequences.

Let me paint you a picture of how this could play out in real life.

Imagine a man named Joe Schmoe who harbors deep-seated antisemitic views. He attends an anti-Israel protest outside Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum, where he adds his voice to hateful and aggressive chants. The police maintain order throughout the event, but as it winds down, officers notice Schmoe throwing an empty beer bottle into the street. No one is injured, and no property is damaged, but Schmoe is wearing a

mask.

The officers, following the new law, ask Schmoe to remove his mask. He refuses. Asked why he's wearing it, he remains silent. Left with little choice, the police arrest him — not for throwing the bottle, but for violating the Mask Transparency Act.

Here's where things get tricky. Schmoe is processed and eventually ends up in court, where he is provided a public defender, because he can't afford his own attorney. His case lingers in the justice system for nearly two years due to backlogs. When the case finally goes to trial, the prosecution — funded by taxpayers — is tasked with proving that Schmoe wore the mask with criminal intent.

But his defense is simple: He claims he wore the mask because he wasn't feeling well, and feared contracting Covid-19. How can the prosecution definitively disprove this claim? The jury, bound to follow the law as written, might very well have no choice but to acquit him. And just like that, the Mask Transparency Act becomes the perfect tool for committing what I call the "perfect crime."

This is more than a hypothetical scenario; it's a real possibility under this poorly crafted law. The resources spent on prosecuting someone like Schmoe, who walks away unscathed in the end, could have been better used to target those who seek to harm others.

The sad irony here is that the Mask Transparency Act was meant to protect communities from hate and violence, but instead it creates legal loopholes that make it harder to hold the guilty accountable. The law's vague language and broad scope mean that it can be easily manipulated, turning a well-meaning but seriously flawed piece of legislation into a shield for those it was meant to expose.

Nassau County needs to pass laws that are both constitutionally sound and effective in practice, and the Mask Transparency Act fails on both counts. Instead of deterring hate, it risks emboldening those who seek to evade justice by exploiting the very law designed to stop them. We deserve better — and we deserve laws that are precise, enforceable and, above all, just.

The fight against hate is too important to be left to legislation that does more harm than good. It's time for our leaders to go back to the drawing board and craft solutions that truly protect our communities.

Seth I. Koslow represents Nassau County's 5th Legislative District.

LETTERS

press. The Democratic National Convention last week continued the good-feeling tour — and the evasion. The sanitizing of her positions on the issues, in contrast to her previous stances, and the avoidance of her failure as the "border czar" will have additional shelf life.

Her reputation as an abuser of her staff and the high turnover rate among them, as well as her unwillingness to do the work required as V.P., isn't the thread the mainstream media is willing to look at. I can only hope the upcoming debate will focus on the issues and her record. It isn't courage that Donald Trump needs to debate her, but rather the self-discipline to stay away from personal attacks that can only undermine him and cause an unnecessary distraction.

TONY GIAMETTA
Oceanside

Thanks, Peter King, for reflections on Pete Rose

To the Editor:

I read with deep interest Peter King's column "Rethinking the embarrassing saga of Pete Rose (Aug. 15-21). I took particular interest in King's shar-

ing of his views and questions with his son and grandson.

It seems to me that the complete truth of Rose's behavior requires both an investigative exercise and collaborative testimony from others to support his claims. Essentially, nothing he says should be believed unless the facts beyond his statements can be gleaned, and others can offer evidence in support of his behavior. Because his own previous testimony is both incomplete and untruthful, any decisions on whether to include him in the Hall of Fame must serve the public first and his request last.

The years, and now decades, of Rose's lying about betting on baseball — and on the Reds in particular — bring up the need to ask other Hall of Fame members their thoughts on his potential induction, too. In particular, Johnny Bench, a colleague of Rose's on the Reds, says no. Why? Because as Bench states, what rules or pledges of honesty about gambling should our children learn from Rose?

So far, his decades-long behavior suggests there are no pledges from him that we should believe are examples of his character or integrity. When it comes to teaching children, as Bench states, the entire acceptance test is based on character and truthfulness.

Not accepting Rose into the Hall of

FRAMEWORK by Nicholas Fowler



What more fitting place to end the summer than at The End? — Montauk Lighthouse

Fame teaches our children that dishonesty can never be rewarded. Our society must stand for something, and recognize integrity and character.

Pete Rose is an undesirable candidate

for the Hall of Fame. Despite his performance as a player, he is unqualified.

JOE ABATE
Island Park



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